



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
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Eligibility Operations Memo 04-06
March 15, 2004

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Deputy Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **Medex Premium Rate Increase**

Introduction

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has received approval from the Division of Insurance to increase premium rates for all of its nongroup Medex plans: Medex Gold, Medex Silver, Medex Standard, Medex Basic, Medex Bronze, and Medex Core, effective March 15, 2004.

Also, Blue Cross and Blue Shield is now offering a new plan called **Medex Core Plus**.

Rate Changes and PACES Codes

The Medex plans, PACES codes, old and new quarterly rates, and new monthly premiums appear in the chart below. The new monthly premium is the amount allowed as a patient-paid amount (PPA) deduction. Fees for special billing arrangements that cause a premium to exceed these amounts are not allowable PPA deductions.

Important: Correct usage of PACES codes will prevent values greater than the maximum premium amount from being entered. Workers can enter an amount that is less than the current maximum premium amount to calculate a retroactive PPA.

Medex Plan	PACES Code	Old Quarterly Rate	New Quarterly Rate	New Monthly Premium
Gold	3	\$1,242.69	\$1,416.66	\$472.22
Silver	8	\$967.62	\$1,164.03	\$388.01
Standard	4	\$916.44	\$1,016.28	\$338.76
Basic	1	\$620.91	\$746.94	\$249.98
Bronze	2	\$372.24	\$415.98	\$138.66
Core	7	\$217.68	\$252.39	\$84.13
Core Plus	6	N/A	\$470.55	\$156.85

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System Changes

Community MassHealth members with Medex coding were updated with the new premium amounts by the system. MassHealth did not recalculate their eligibility.

Long-Term-Care MassHealth members with Medex coding were also updated with the new premium amounts by the system. MassHealth recalculated their PPAs in March 2004 for PPA changes effective March 2004.

PPA Notices

During the month of April 2004, MassHealth will mail system-generated notices containing information about the new PPAs to affected long-term-care members, conservators, and nursing facilities.

Reports

The system will issue the following two reports about the Medex premium rate increase.

- The first report will list updated long-term-care members with their old and new Medex premiums and old and new PPAs.
 - The second report will be an update-exception report that identifies members with Medex premiums on file that do not correspond to the Medex plan for which the member is coded.
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Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MassHealth Enrollment Center designee contact the Policy Hotline at 617-210-5331.
